Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for evaluating quality of a processed image, comprising the steps of:

generating at least one <u>ringing</u> artifact measure,<u> wherein said generating comprises segmenting the processed image into at least one uniform region and at least one non-uniform region</u>; and

generating a no-reference quality measure from said at least one <u>ringing</u> artifact measure, where said no-reference quality measure represents a quality measure of the processed image.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said no-reference quality measure is generated directly from said processed image.

3. (Canceled)   ~~The method of claim 1, where said at least one artifact measure comprises a ringing artifact measure.~~

4. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said generating at least one ringing artifact measure <u>further</u> comprises:

~~segmenting the processed image into at least one uniform region;~~

identifying at least one edge within the processed image; and

defining at least one region adjacent to said at least one edge.

5. (Original)   The method of claim 4, wherein said at least one ringing artifact measure is generated in accordance with:

$$R_{i,j} = \begin{cases} \dfrac{\text{var}(E_{i,j})}{\text{var}(U_i)}, & \exists\, i,j \ni x \in E_{i,j} \wedge |E_{i,j}| > M \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $R_{i,j}$ denotes said ringing artifact measure, $\text{var}(E_{i,j})$ denotes variance of $E_{i,j}$, $\text{var}(U_i)$ denotes variance of a uniform region U_i, $E_{i,j}$ denotes an jth connected   component of

the intersection of a region adjacent to said at least one edge E and U_i, and M is a threshold.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 4, wherein said at least one region adjacent to said at least one edge is defined in accordance with a coding block size.

7-18 (Withdrawn)

19. (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for evaluating quality of a processed image, comprising the steps of:

  means for generating at least one ringing artifact measure, wherein said generating comprises segmenting the processed image into at least one uniform region and at least one non-uniform region; and

  means for generating a no-reference quality measure from said at least one ringing artifact measure, where said no-reference quality measure represents a quality measure of the processed image.

20. (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising of:

  generating at least one ringing artifact measure, wherein said generating comprises segmenting the processed image into at least one uniform region and at least one non-uniform region; and

  generating a no-reference quality measure from said at least one ringing artifact measure, where said no-reference quality measure represents a quality measure of the processed image.